

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Adopted by the Regents  
December 15, 2011

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Macklin Smith, Ph.D.**, associate professor of English language and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2011.

Professor Smith received his B.A. degree from Princeton University in 1966, his M.A. degree from Harvard University in 1968, and his Ph.D. degree from Princeton University in 1975. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1975, and was promoted to associate professor in 1979.

Professor Smith was a medievalist and a poet, with a longstanding interest in historical and contemporary verse forms. His first book was a study of the late Latin poet *Prudentius: Prudentius' Psychomachia: A Reexamination* (1976). He also published articles on Geoffrey Chaucer and William Langland. His historically informed knowledge of verse forms and his keen interest in contemporary poetry led him more recently into an ambitious work-in-progress: assembling an on-line corpus of hip-hop poetry and performing analytical work on the forms employed in the hip-hop line. Professor Smith was co-author, with Professor Eric Rabkin, of *Teaching Writing That Works: A Group Approach to Practical English* (1990). He published *Transplant*, a distinguished and powerful volume of poetry, with Shaman Drum Books in 2003.

Professor Smith was a beloved teacher and advisor. His service to the English department has included positions as associate chair, director of undergraduate studies, and a number of terms on the departmental executive committee. He served as secretary of the faculty for the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (1995-96). His longstanding passion for ornithology (he has been for many years the world-record holder for number of species of North American birds seen) was reflected in a great deal of his poetry and in essays and reviews published in ornithological journals.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Macklin Smith associate professor emeritus of English language and literature**.

**Requested by:**

  
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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**December 2011**